

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI) is a program that pays monthly benefits to families whose children have certain disabling conditions. To qualify, the family must meet the income eligibility limits.

SSI Rules About Income and Resources:

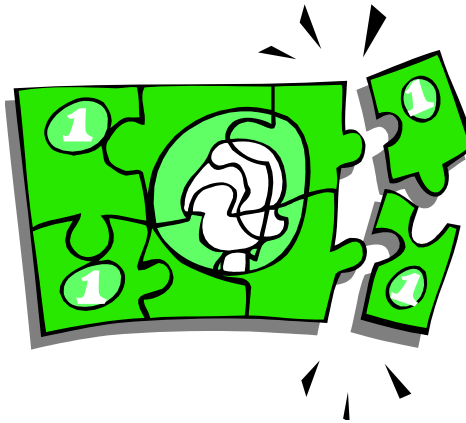
For children living at home under age 18, Social Security considers the parents' income when deciding if a child qualifies. The local Social Security office decides if the parents' income and assets are within the SSI limits. A team at a state office that includes a disability evaluation specialist and a doctor determine if the child meets Social Security's definition of disabled.

SSI Rules about Disability:

- The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of conditions, that results in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must very seriously limit your child's activities.
- The child's condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least 12 months; or must be expected to result in death.
- Some of the disability categories in which Social Security will presume the child is disabled and make immediate SSI payments include:
 - Total Blindness
 - Total Deafness
 - Cerebral Palsy (in some cases)
 - Down Syndrome
 - Muscular Dystrophy
 - Birth weight below two pounds, 10 ounces
 - HIV infection

To determine whether the child's impairment causes "marked and severe functional limitations," the disability

evaluation team obtains evidence from a wide variety of sources who have knowledge of your child's condition and how it affects his or her ability to function on a day-to-day basis and over time. These sources may include, but are not limited to, the doctors and other health professionals who treat your child, teachers, counselors, therapists, and social workers.



The disability evaluation and determination process generally takes 3-5 months. However the law allows for people (including children) whose condition is so severe that they are presumed to be disabled to receive SSI benefits for six months while the formal disability decision is being made.

If social security makes these special payments and later decides that your child's disability is not severe enough to qualify for SSI, the benefits **DO NOT** have to be paid back.

SSI Disability Reviews

One your child starts to receive SSI, the law requires a review of your child's medical condition for continuing eligibility. This review must be done:

- At least every 3 years for children under age 18 whose condition is expected to improve; and
- By age 1 for babies who are getting SSI payments because of low birth weight.

Most children who qualify for SSI payments will also be eligible for Medicaid, the state program for health care, however this is not automatic and families must apply for Medicaid. The phone numbers for most local Medicaid offices are on the back of this sheet.

If you have questions about ANY of these programs or services ask your service coordinator to assist you.

Your Service Coordinator Can Help

Applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits

To apply for SSI benefits for your child, call or visit your local Social Security office. You can find the office nearest you by calling, toll free: **1-800-772-1213** or visit their website at www.ssa.gov. Your early intervention service coordinator can help you with this.

Have your child's

- birth certificate and
- social security number available, as well as
- records showing your child's and family's income and assets.

The medical evaluation specialists at Disability Determination Service (DDS) need thorough and detailed medical records to help them decide if your child is disabled. You can speed up this process by providing the medical records or helping Social

Security get them. When you apply for benefits, you will be asked to provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all the doctors, hospitals, clinics, and other specialists your child has seen.

You will also be asked to describe how your child's disability affects his or her ability to function on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, Social Security may ask you to provide the names of early intervention professionals, child care providers, and other family members who might also spend time with your child, such as grandparents, who can share information about your child's abilities and challenges. Your early intervention records might also be helpful and your service coordinator can help you get a copy to take with you to the interview.

Be as specific and complete with your answers as possible. If you do not have all the information, tell the interviewer as much as you know.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

If a child is disabled and eligible for SSI, they are also referred for health care services under the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) program. In Nevada this program is administered by the Division of Health and provides specialized health care services. Even if your child is not eligible for SSI, the CSHCN program may be able to help your child. Your service coordinator can help you contact this program as well

For more information go to:

http://health.nv.gov/CSHCN_Program.htm

Please Note: Most of the information on this fact sheet comes from Social Security Administration Publication No. 05-10026, January 2009, ICN 455360.

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Project ASSIST
Toll Free: **1-800-522-0066**

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Community Resource Numbers

Carson City	(775) 684-0800
Elko	(775) 753-1233
Ely	(775) 289-1650
Fallon	(775) 423-3161
Hawthorne	(775) 945-3602
Henderson	(702) 486-5000
Las Vegas - Belrose	(702) 486-1675
Las Vegas - Cambridge	(702) 486-8770
Las Vegas - Cannon/DI Center	(702) 486-8504
Las Vegas - Owens	(702) 486-1800
Las Vegas - S. Professional Dev. Ctr.	(702) 486-1401
Pahrump	(775) 751-7400
Reno - North Professional Dev. Ctr.	(775) 448-5238
Reno District	(775) 684-7200
Winnemucca	(775) 623-6557
Yerington	(775) 463-3028

SERVICE COORDINATOR #: _____

NAME: _____